

CLAIMS

1. An access terminal for selecting a best serving sector in a CDMA communication system, comprising:

a signal level estimator to deduct an offset value from a fixed rate signal level of the current serving sector to generate an adjusted fixed rate signal level for all sectors;

a comparator to determine differences between a plurality of signal levels received from a plurality of active sectors and a signal level of a current serving sector;

a comparator for receiving adjusted signal levels to determine differences;

an accumulator to apply a hysteresis during an accumulation and provides accumulated total credits to a credit authorization module; and

a new sector identification module to receive the accumulated total credits and selects the sector with the highest soft key among a pool of candidate sectors.

2. The access terminal of claim 1, further comprising a best sector identifier to provide an output of the best serving sector and transmission mode.

3. The access terminal of claim 2, wherein the transmission mode identifies the best serving sector transmission mode as fixed rate or variable rate.

4. The access terminal of claim 1 further comprising an RPC filter to evaluate whether a mean RPC exceeds a threshold and determine if a deduction is to be applied to a variable rate signal level.